

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California



# Tools and services for utilizing oceanographic data

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Physical Oceanographic DAAC  
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA

2017 CalCOFI Conference, San Diego, CA  
Dec, 2017

# PO.DAAC Organization



# PO.DAAC Charter

“To maintain NASA’s oceanographic and climate data for future generations and to make these, and synergistic datasets, easily accessible, usable, and understandable for a broad and diverse set of data consumers.”

- \* **Fundamental duty:** Maintain the archive (but... *active* archive; “easily accessible”).
- \* **Fundamental value:** Make the data usable and understandable. *Facilitate science!*



# PO.DAAC Legacy



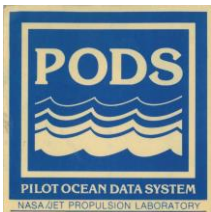
**PO.DAAC today**



**PO.DAAC (Physical Oceanography Distributed Active Archive Center)**  
1991 Joined DAAC system



**NODS (NASA Ocean Data System)**  
1987 Operational System



**PODS (Pilot Ocean Data System)**  
Pre-1986 pilot program



- Distributing data from 10 NASA Projects and Missions
- Covering 6 key Physical Oceanography Parameters
- Project Holdings: 420\* TB / 40,000,000 files
- Annual distribution of 500+ TB to over 46,000 unique users
- Public engagement with over 60,000 people annually

# PO.DAAC Functional Areas



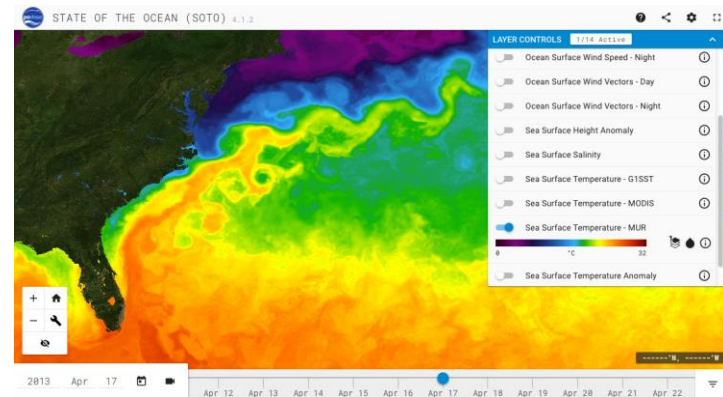
## Data Management & Stewardship

Preserve NASA's data for the benefit of future generations



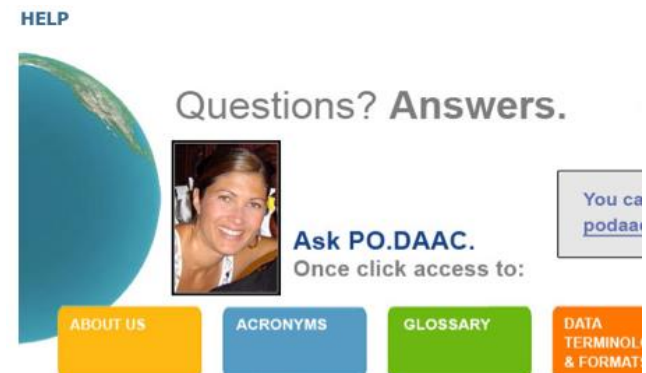
## Data Access

Provide intuitive services to discover, select, extract and utilize data



## Science Information Services

Provide a knowledgebase to help a broad user community understand and interpret satellite ocean data and related information



# PO.DAAC Datasets

## NASA Missions & Projects

Seasat, TOPEX/Poseidon, Jason-1, NSCAT, SeaWinds on ADEOS-II, QuikSCAT, GRACE, GHRSSST, SPURS, MEaSUREs, Aquarius, CYGNSS, GRACE-FO (2017)

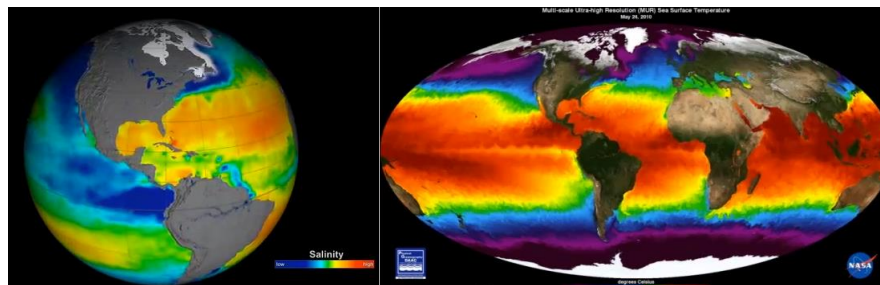
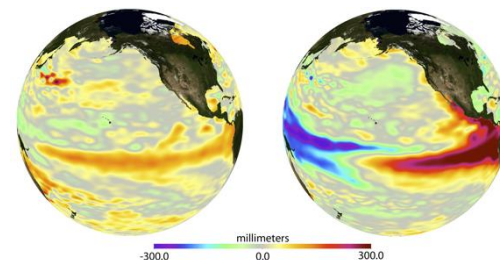
Upcoming: COWVR, AirSWOT, SWOT, GRACE-2



## Ocean & Climate Community Driven

*Value-added datasets in support of NASA programs*

Gravity  
Ocean Circulation & Currents  
Ocean Surface Salinity  
Ocean Surface Topography  
Ocean Vector Winds  
Sea Surface Temperature  
*Hydrology*  
*Ocean Color*  
*Sea Ice*





# PO.DAAC Partnerships



Center for  
Ocean-Atmospheric  
Prediction Studies



The EUMETSAT  
Network of  
Satellite Application  
Facilities





# PO.DAAC Mission Portfolio

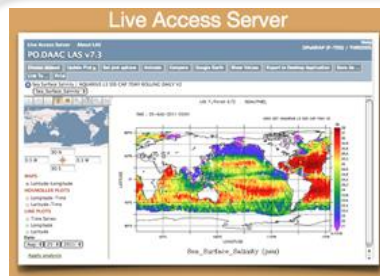
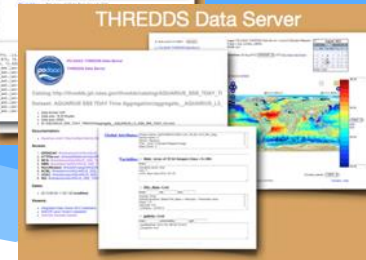
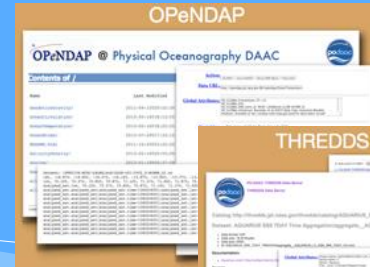
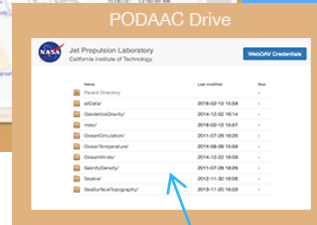
Parameter	Retired/Retiring	Ongoing	New	Future
SSS	Aquarius	SPURS I	SPURS II SMAP-SSS	
SST	GHRSSST (GDS1)	GHRSSST (GDS2) MODIS GOES VIIRS	Sentinel-3a	Sentinel-3b VIIRS/JPSS-1
Gravity	GEOS-3	GRACE		GRACE-FO
OST	TOPEX/Poseidon Jason-1	Jason-2/OSTM	Jason-3 Sentinel-3a OMG	SWOT Sentinel-3b Sentinel-6/Jason-CS
OVW	SeaSat NSCAT AMSR-E Seawinds on ADEOS-2	WindSat QuikSCAT RapidScat ASCAT	CYGNSS	MetOp-C COWVR
Ocean Circulation		OSCAR		



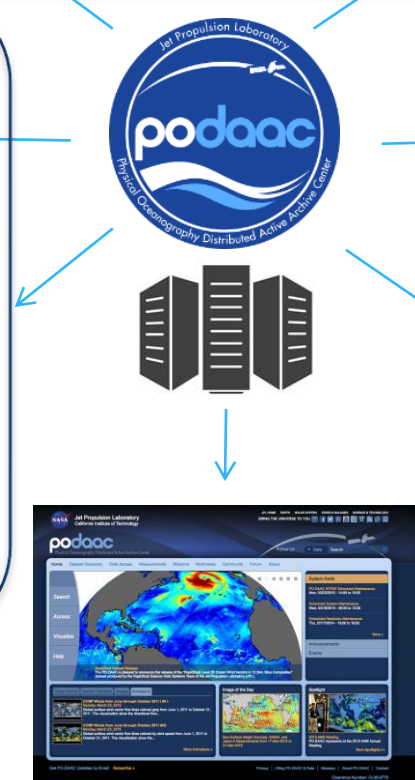
# PO.DAAC Web, Tools and Services



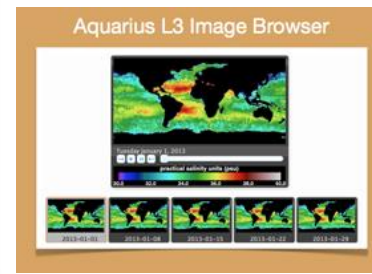
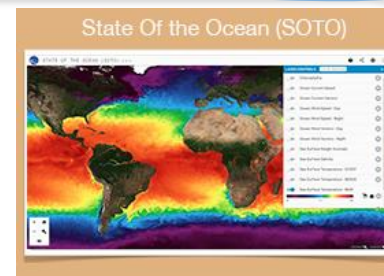
## Protocols



## Subsetting

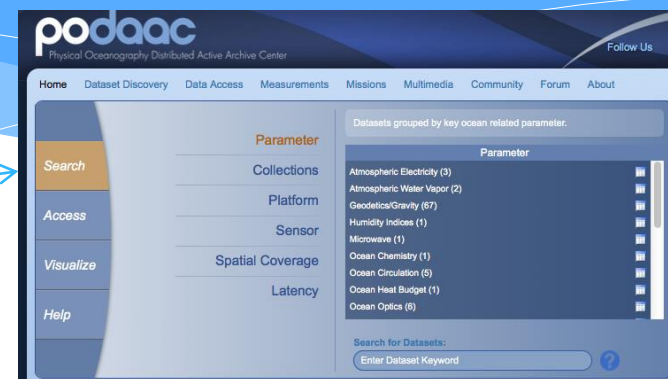


## Web Portal (Dataset Discovery)



## Visualization

# PO.DAAC Web Portal



- A gateway to **Dataset Discovery** and **Data Access**
- Brings information together from diverse sources in a uniform way.
- Dynamic generations of content
- **Forums**
  - General Questions/FAQs
  - Data Recipes/Tutorials
  - Science Collaborative Forums

# PO.DAAC Web Portal



## \* Dataset Discovery

- \* Faceted Browsing
- \* Multi-level filtering
- \* Keyword search
- \* Dataset Information Page/DOI Landing Pages
- \* Granule browsing through date tree

## Dataset Information Page

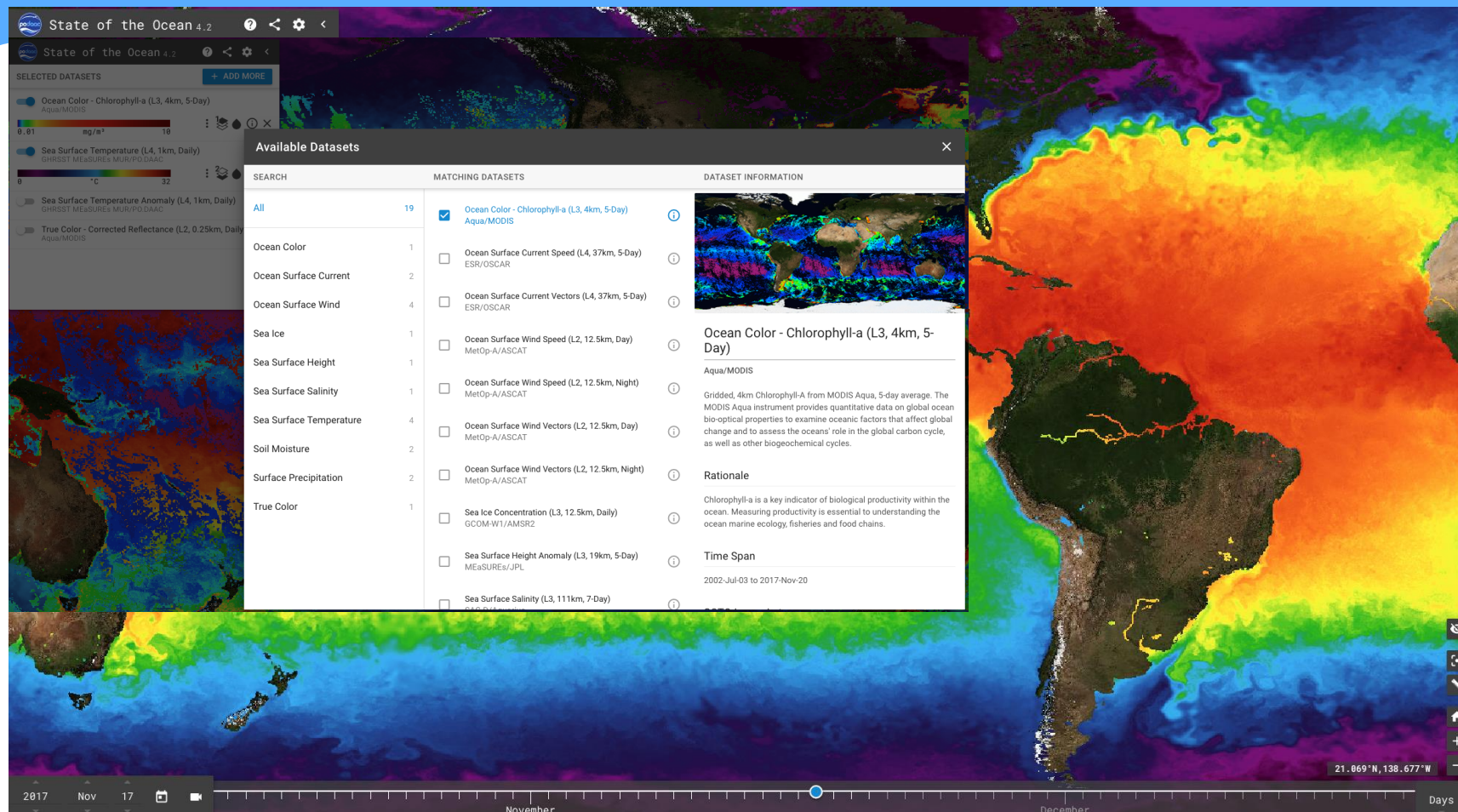
- \* Information
  - \* Dataset Metadata
- \* Data Access
  - \* Direct Access
  - \* Tools and Services
  - \* Read Software
- \* Documentation
  - \* Known Issues
- \* Granule (File) Listing
- \* Citation



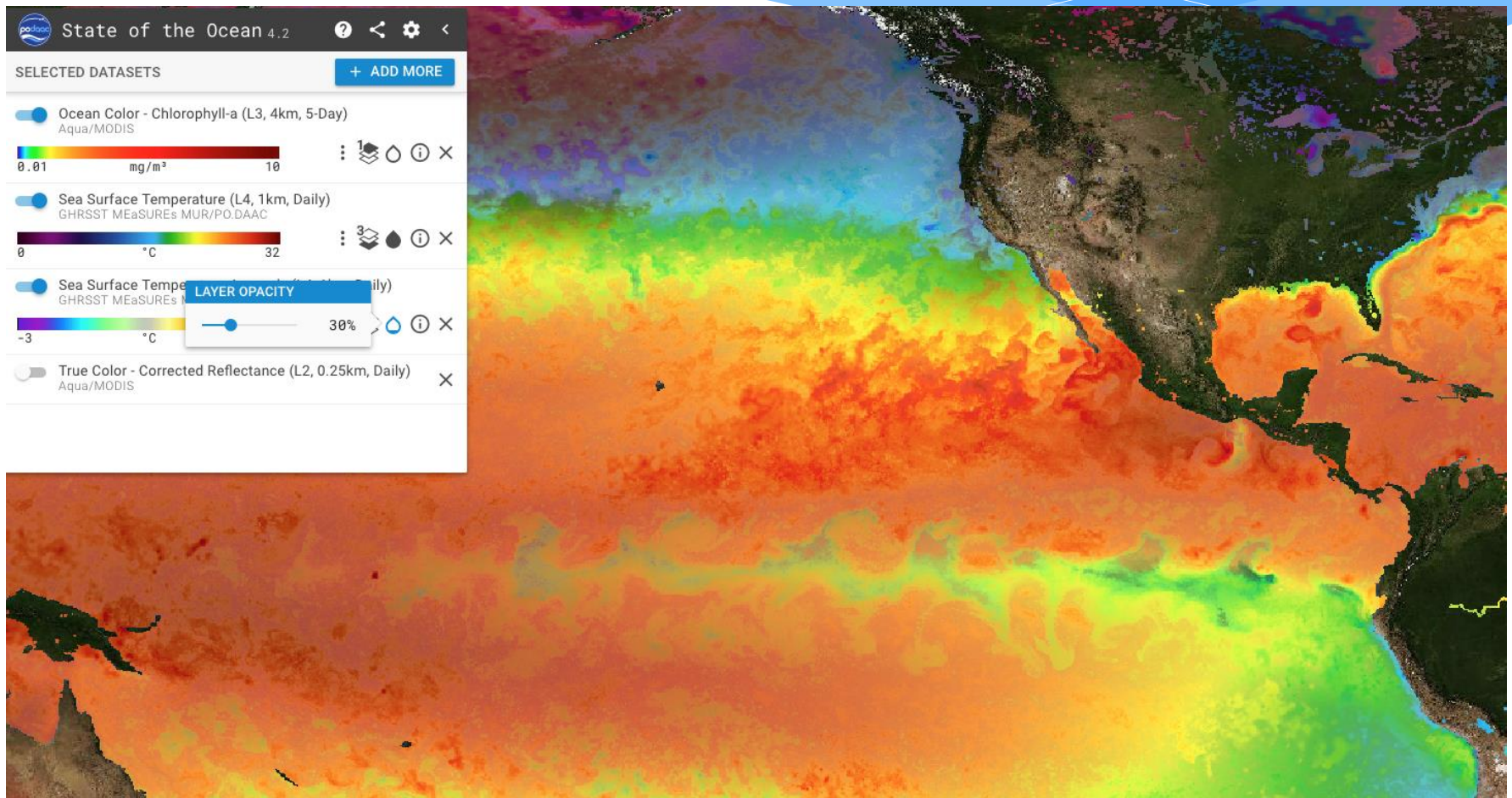
# SOTO Introduction

- \* State of the Ocean (SOTO) is a web client for multi layer visualization for ocean data of
  - \* Temperature
  - \* Wind
  - \* Sea Level
  - \* Salinity
  - \* Currents
  - \* Biology and others
- \* What else can SOTO be used for ?
  - \* Image overlay and animation
  - \* Color manipulation
  - \* Data interrogation
- \* Leverages tiled images created by the NASA Global Imagery Browse System (GIBS)





# SST Imagery Overlay







# Use case: Gulf of Tehuantepec gap winds

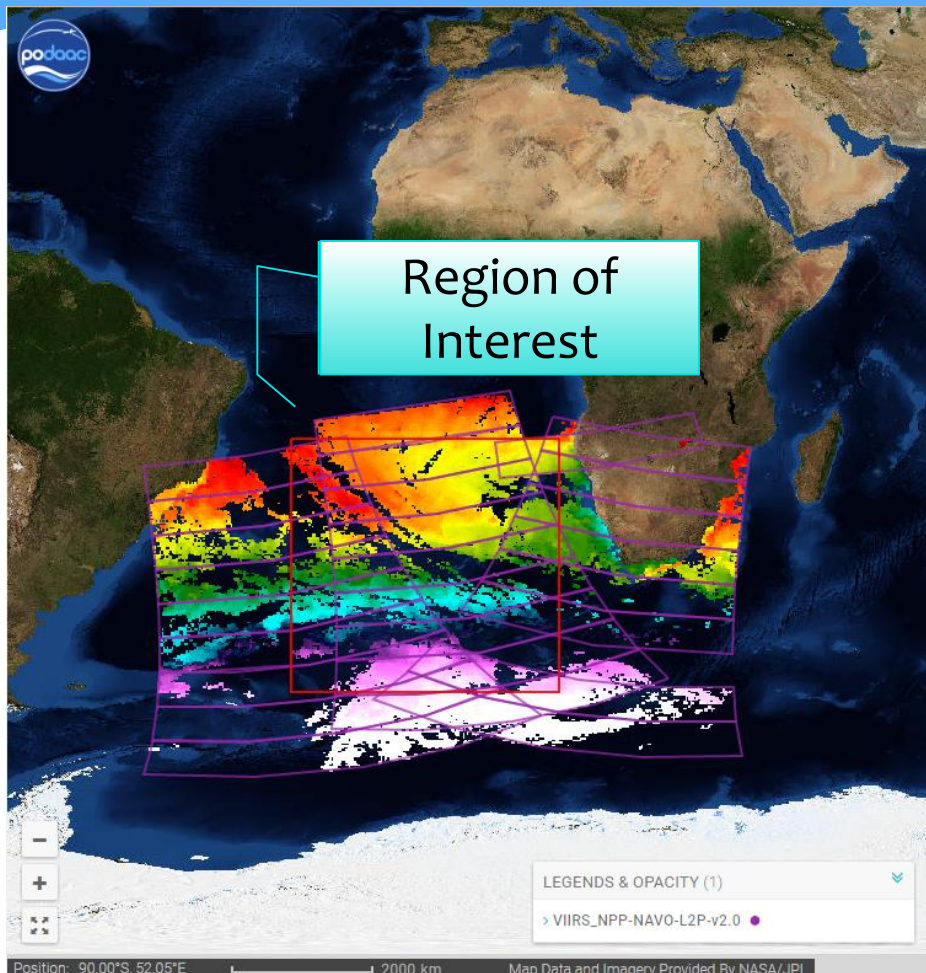
- \* [Recent Gulf of Tehuantepec wind event](#)
- \* [https://podaac-tools.jpl.nasa.gov/soto/#b=BlueMarble\\_ShadedRelief\\_Bathymetry&l=jpl\\_l4\\_mur\\_ssta\\_ssta\\_36000\\_x\\_18000\\_daynight\(la=true\),ascata\\_l2\\_coastal\\_wind\\_dir\\_color\\_day\(la=true\),ascata\\_l2\\_coastal\\_wind\\_dir\\_color\\_night\(la=true\),GHRSST\\_L4\\_MUR\\_Sea\\_Surface\\_Temperature,MODIS\\_Aqua\\_CorrectedReflectance\\_TrueColor,modis\\_aqua\\_l3\\_chla\\_daily\\_4km\\_l\\_chlorophyll\\_a\\_8640\\_x\\_4320\\_daynight&ve=-111.072721483934,7.676522868408321,-85.44968512850639,21.60705065522726&pl=false&pb=false&d=2017-11-15&ao=false&as=2017-10-25&ae=2017-11-08&\(censored-word\)=1/day&afr=500&tlr=days](https://podaac-tools.jpl.nasa.gov/soto/#b=BlueMarble_ShadedRelief_Bathymetry&l=jpl_l4_mur_ssta_ssta_36000_x_18000_daynight(la=true),ascata_l2_coastal_wind_dir_color_day(la=true),ascata_l2_coastal_wind_dir_color_night(la=true),GHRSST_L4_MUR_Sea_Surface_Temperature,MODIS_Aqua_CorrectedReflectance_TrueColor,modis_aqua_l3_chla_daily_4km_l_chlorophyll_a_8640_x_4320_daynight&ve=-111.072721483934,7.676522868408321,-85.44968512850639,21.60705065522726&pl=false&pb=false&d=2017-11-15&ao=false&as=2017-10-25&ae=2017-11-08&(censored-word)=1/day&afr=500&tlr=days)

# HiTIDE (*High-level Tool for Interactive Data Extraction*) Introduction



- \* A Level-2 (swath) granule (file) subsetting tool allows a user to inspect, extract and download granules in a region of interest.
- \* **Key features:**
  - ☐ *File selection*
    1. Filtering of datasets by Variable, Sensor, and Provider
    2. Bounding by the time range and region of interest
  - ☐ *Visual inspection of selected granules*
    1. Display of orbit track of granules
    2. Display of 2-D Level-2 (swath) granule image
  - ☐ *Download: Files in the region of interest can be downloaded and aggregated in native format and saved for further scientific analysis.*

# HiTIDE



HiTIDE

SEARCH DATASETS GRANULE SELECTION DOWNLOADS

Select & Preview Granules

Download matching granules for all datasets, for individual datasets, or click on a dataset to further filter and preview its granules.

Selected Datasets

Matching Granules

VIIRS\_NPP-NAVO-L2P-v2.0 4706

VIIRS\_NPP-NAVO-L2P-v2.0 Granules

Filter by Name Wildcard search ( e.g. ascst\*240\* )

Filter by Date FROM 1/1/2017 TO 4/1/2017

4706 matching search, 4706 matching filter, Displaying 50 out of 4706

	Name	Start Time	End Time
	20170401123301-NAVO-L2P_GHRSST-SST1m-VIIRS_NPP-v02.0-fv02.0.nc	2017-04-01T12:33	2017-04-01T12:34
	20170401123135-NAVO-L2P_GHRSST-SST1m-VIIRS_NPP-v02.0-fv02.0.nc	2017-04-01T12:31	2017-04-01T12:32
	20170401123010-NAVO-L2P_GHRSST-SST1m-VIIRS_NPP-v02.0-fv02.0.nc	2017-04-01T12:30	2017-04-01T12:31

ADD MATCHING 4706 GRANULES TO DOWNLOADS



# Web Services

- \* Web Services
- \* PODAAC also provides the efficient machine-to-machine communication and data transfer via script programming using its web services APIs including dataset discovery, granule discovery, granule imaging and subset, and metadata extraction. The table on the right showing the available Web Services at PO.DAAC. A typical PO.DAAC Web Service request is of the following URL template, which aligns with the standard “Open Search Protocol”:
- \* <https://podaac.jpl.nasa.gov/ws/service?parameters>

## Web Services

The following is the list of available PO.DAAC Web Services

Name	Description
<a href="#"><u>Dataset Metadata</u></a>	Dataset metadata service retrieves the metadata of a dataset on PO.DAAC's dataset catalog using the following parameters: datasetId, shortName, and format.
<a href="#"><u>Dataset Search</u></a>	Dataset Search service searches PO.DAAC's dataset catalog, over Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4 datasets, using the following parameters: datasetId, shortName, startTime, endTime, bbox, and others.
<a href="#"><u>Dataset Variables</u></a>	Provides list of dataset variables.
<a href="#"><u>Granule Metadata</u></a>	Granule metadata service retrieves the metadata of a granule on PO.DAAC's catalog using the following parameters: format and other optional parameters.
<a href="#"><u>Granule Search</u></a>	Search Granule does granule searching on PO.DAAC level 2 swath datasets (individual orbits of a satellite), and level 3 & 4 gridded datasets (time averaged to span the globe). The following parameters are supported: datasetId, startTime, endTime, bbox, and others.
<a href="#"><u>Granule Preview</u></a>	The PODAAC preview Image service retrieves pre-generated preview images for selected granules. This service uses a template provided by the Granule Search service and, therefore, Granule Preview must be preceded by Granule Search.
<a href="#"><u>Granule Subset</u></a>	Subset Granule service allows users to Submit subset jobs. Use of this service should be preceded by a Granule Search in order to identify and generate a list of granules to be subsetted.
<a href="#"><u>Subset Status</u></a>	Subset Granule Status service allows users to check the status of submitted subset job.

## Examples

This example python script shows an entire subsetting workflow using the PO.DAAC Web Services, exercising several of the services: datasets are searched (Dataset Search); variables in the found datasets are identified (Dataset Variables); granules meeting search criteria are found (Granule Search); and the identified granules are subsetted (Granule Subset). Before running this script, email\_address variable need to be changed to a valid email address to receive the result. Use the following command to run the script

```
python cws_example.py
```

# Emerging Missions-- SWOT



- \* NASA PO.DAAC is a data archive center that will be distributing Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) data after launch in 2021. **This data will be useful for anyone interested in the water cycle (oceans, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, ice, coasts, etc.).** Please take a survey (~10-15 min) to help us learn how you could use the data so that we can provide the appropriate tools and services.
- \*
- \* [Tinyurl.com/swotsurvey2](https://tinyurl.com/swotsurvey2)





# Emerging Technologies

- \* **VQSS** (*Virtual Quality Screening Service*)
  - \* VQSS has developed an infrastructure to expose, apply, and extract quality screening information
- \* **MUDROD** (*Mining and Utilizing Dataset Relevancy from Oceanographic Dataset*)
  - \* MUDROD improves web-based search relevancy and ranking for NASA earth science products served by the PO.DAAC
- \* **DOMS** (*Distributed Oceanographic Matchup Service*)
  - \* Matchup service between Level 2 satellite data and in situ observations
- \* **OceanXtremes**
  - \* Analytic services for analysis and correlating long time series oceanographic satellite data including anomaly (outlier) detection

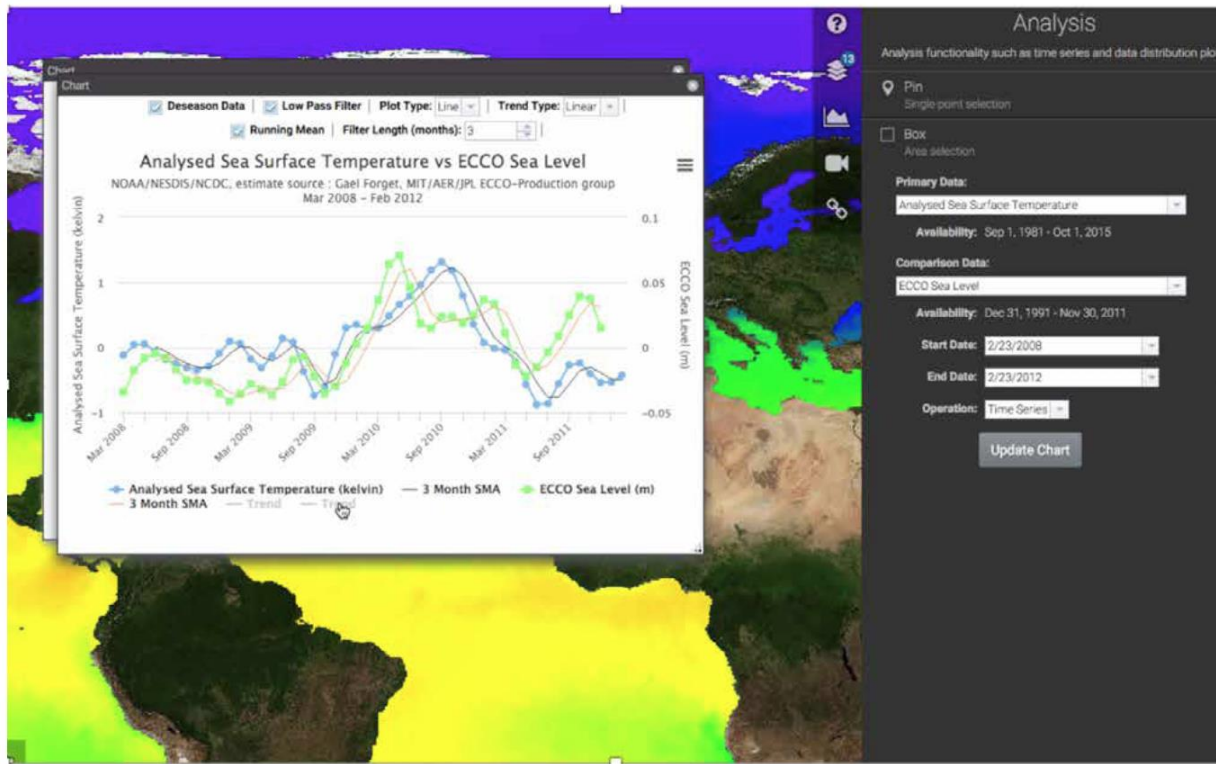
# OceanWorks



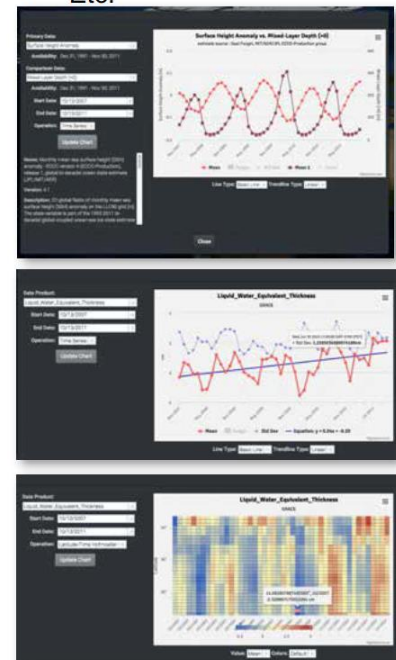
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Analyze Sea Level On-The-Fly <https://sealevel.nasa.gov>

- Visualizations
- Time Series
- Deseason
- Data Comparison
- Latitude/Time Hovmöller
- Etc.



Sea Level Change - Data Analysis Tool

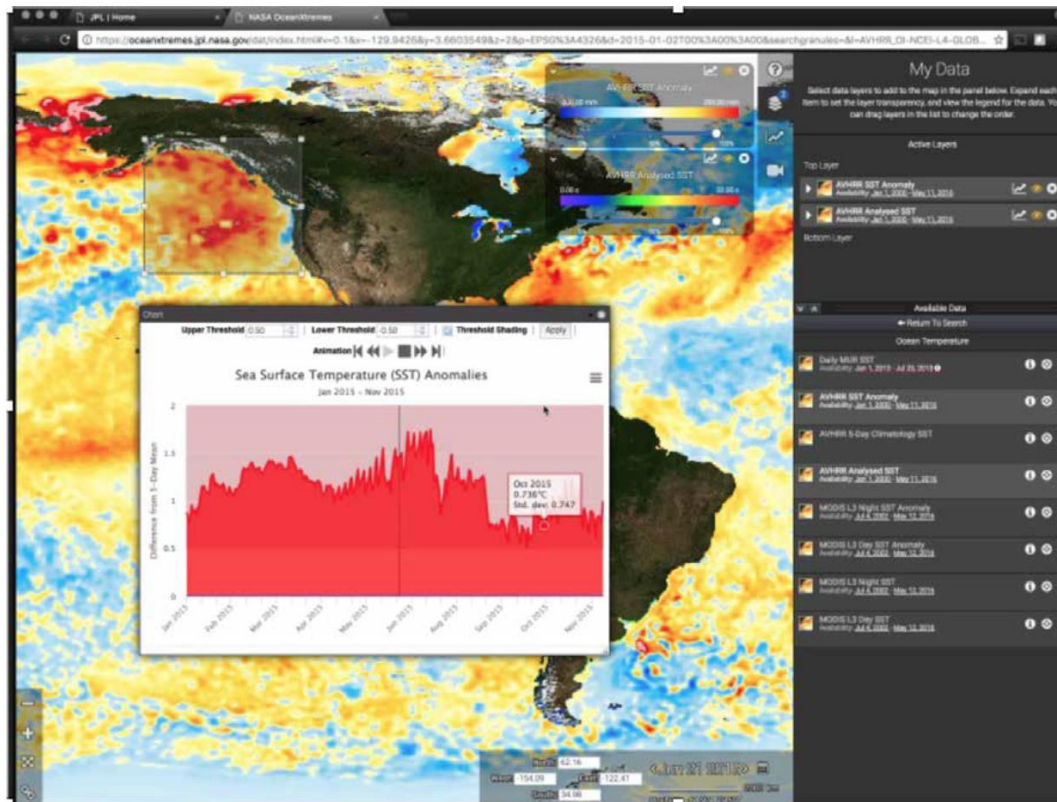


# OceanWorks

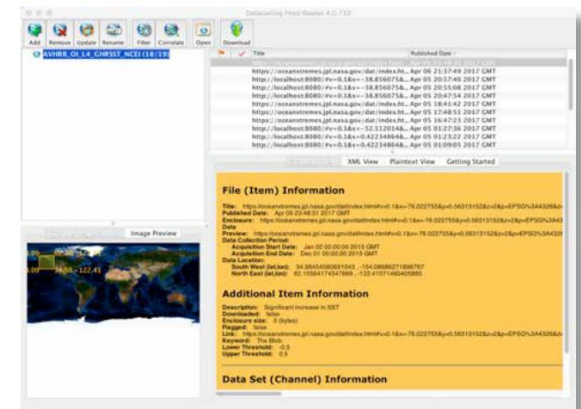


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Pasadena, California

## Analyze Ocean Anomaly



- **Visualize** parameter
- **Compute** daily differences against climatology
- **Analyze** time series area averaged differences
- **Replay** the anomaly and visualize with other measurements
- **Document** the anomaly
- **Publish** the anomaly

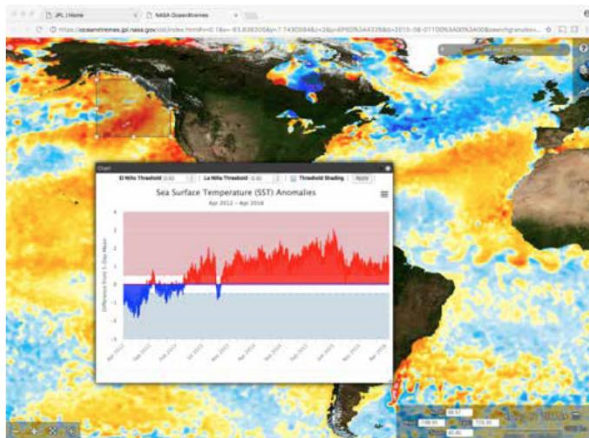


DataCasting client is able to pickup Anomaly Cast published by OceanXtremes

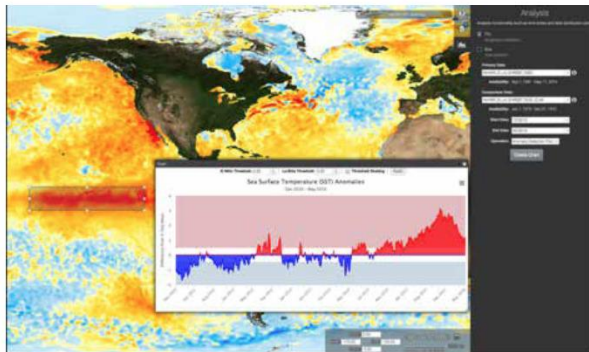


# OceanWorks

## More Anomalies



“The Blob”



El Niño 3.4  
regional  
signal

### Recreated identification of “The Blob”

- **The Blob** is the name given to a large mass of relatively warm water in the Pacific ocean off the coast of North America. It was first detected in late 2013 and continued to spread throughout 2014 and 2015.
- SST anomaly = SST – SST Climatology at each location to compare with standard deviation - Chelle Gentemann, Senior Scientist at Earth & Space Research

### Recreated the El Niño 3.4 regional signal

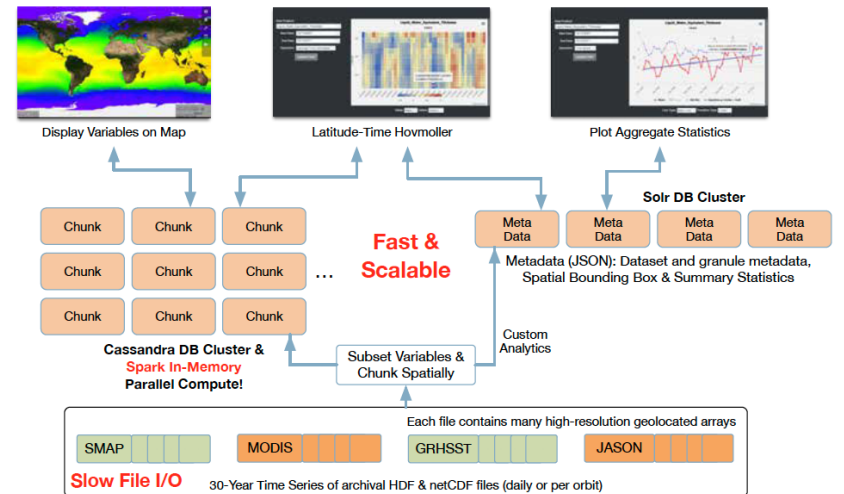
- **El Niño** is a phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific Ocean characterized by a five consecutive 3-month running mean of sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region that is above (below) the threshold of +0.5°C (-0.5°C). This standard of measure is known as the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI).
- <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/teleconnections/enso/indicators/sst.php>

# OceanWorks



## Scalable Data Analytic Solution

- NEXUS is a data-intensive analysis solution using a new approach for handling science data to enable large-scale data analysis
- Streaming architecture for horizontal scale data ingestion
- Scales horizontally to handle massive amount of data in parallel
- Provides high-performance geospatial and indexed search solution
- Provides tiled data storage architecture to eliminate file I/O overhead
- A growing collection of science analysis webservices using Apache Spark: parallel compute, in-memory map-reduce framework
- Pre-Chunk and Summarize Key Variables
  - Easy statistics instantly (milliseconds)
  - Harder statistics on-demand using Spark (in seconds)
  - Visualize original data (layers) on a map quickly (Cassandra store)
- Algorithms** – Time Series | Latitude/Time Hovmöller | Longitude/Time Hovmöller | Latitude/Longitude Time Average | Area Averaged Time Series | Time Averaged Map | Climatological Map | Correlation Map | Daily Difference Average



Two-Database Architecture

**Open Source: Apache License 2**  
<https://github.com/dataplumber/nexus>

# OceanWorks

## NEXUS Performance: Custom Spark vs. AWS EMR

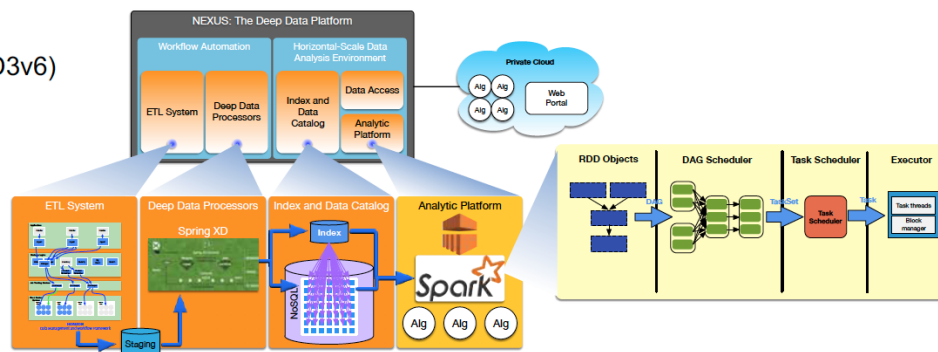
**Dataset:** MODIS AQUA Daily

**Name:** Aerosol Optical Depth 550 nm (Dark Target) (MYD08\_D3v6)

**File Count:** 5106

**Volume:** 2.6GB

**Time Coverage:** July 4, 2002 – July 3, 2016

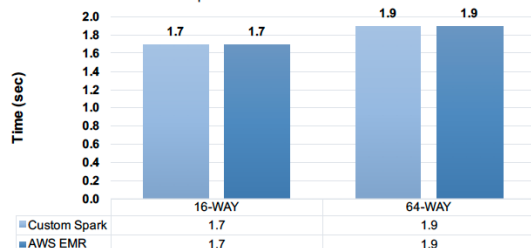


**Area Averaged Time Series on AWS - Boulder**

July 4, 2002 - July 3, 2016

NEXUS Performance

Custom Spark vs. AWS EMR  
Ref. Speed - Giovanni: 1140.22 sec

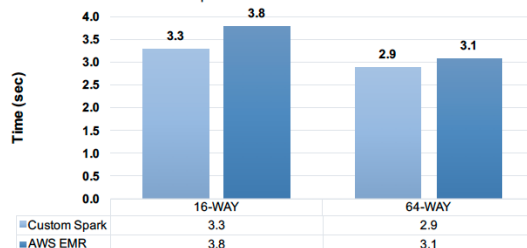


**Area Averaged Time Series on AWS - Colorado**

July 4, 2002 - July 3, 2016

NEXUS Performance

Custom Spark vs. AWS EMR  
Ref. Speed - Giovanni: 1150.6 sec

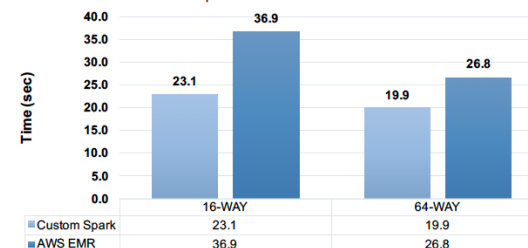


**Area Averaged Time Series on AWS - Global**

July 4, 2002 - July 3, 2016

NEXUS Performance

Custom Spark vs. AWS EMR  
Ref. Speed - Giovanni: 1366.84 sec



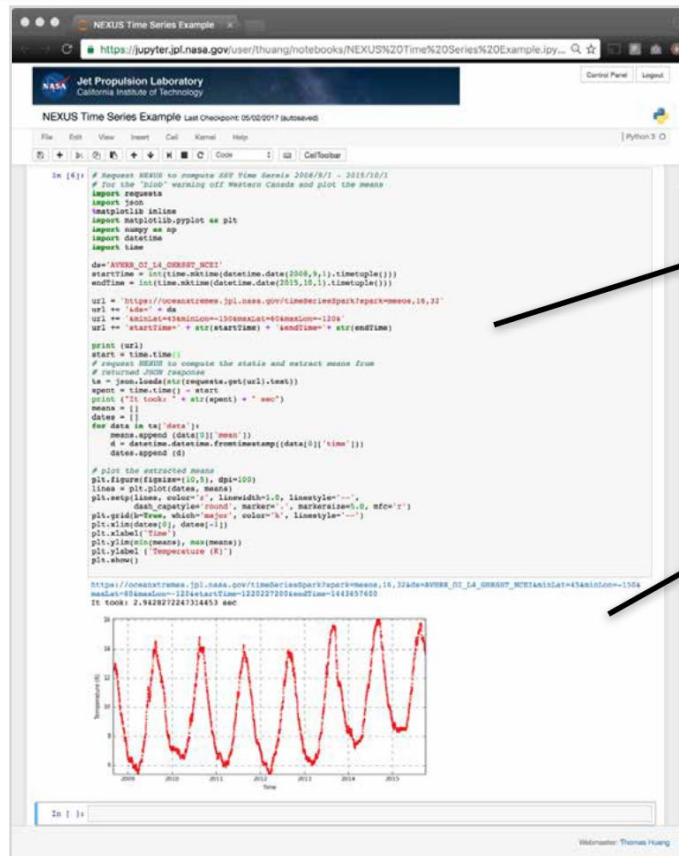


# OceanWorks



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## Enable Science without File Download



```
# Request NEXUS to compute SST Time Series 2008/9/1 - 2015/10/1
# for the "blob" warming off Western Canada and plot the means
...
ds='AVHRR_OI_L4_GHRSST_NCEI'

url = ... # construct the webservice URL request

# make request to NEXUS using URL request
# save JSON response in local variable
ts = json.loads(str(requests.get(url).text))

# extract dates and means from the response
means = []
dates = []
for data in ts['data']:
    means.append(data[0]['mean'])
    d = datetime.datetime.fromtimestamp((data[0]['time']))
    dates.append(d)

# plot the result
...
```

[https://oceanxtremes.jpl.nasa.gov/timeSeriesSpark?spark=me sos,16,32&ds=AVHRR\\_OI\\_L4\\_GHRSST\\_NCEI&minLat=45&minLon=-150&maxLat=60&maxLon=-120&startTime=1220227200&endTime=1443657600](https://oceanxtremes.jpl.nasa.gov/timeSeriesSpark?spark=me sos,16,32&ds=AVHRR_OI_L4_GHRSST_NCEI&minLat=45&minLon=-150&maxLat=60&maxLon=-120&startTime=1220227200&endTime=1443657600)

It took: 2.9428272247314453 sec

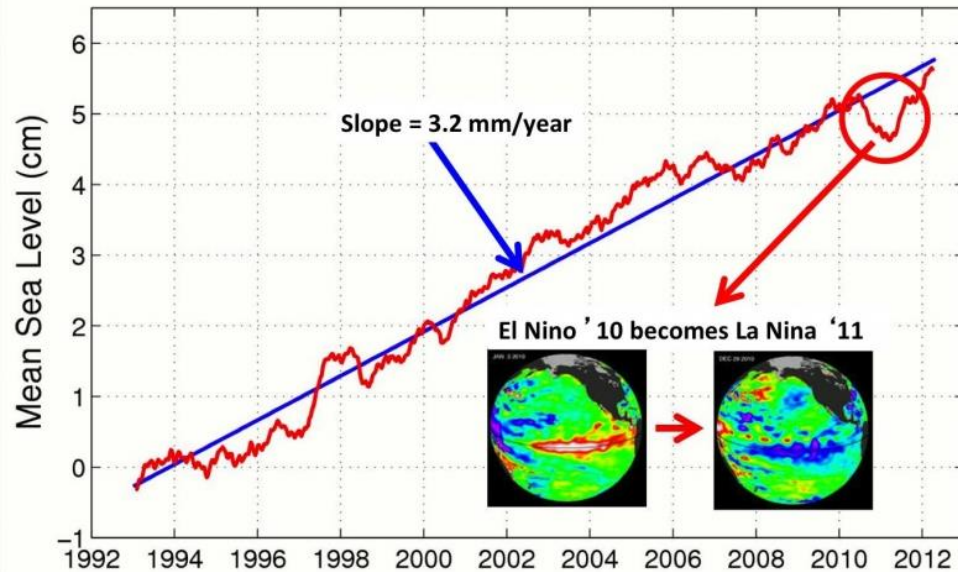


Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply its endorsement by the United States Government or the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology



# backups

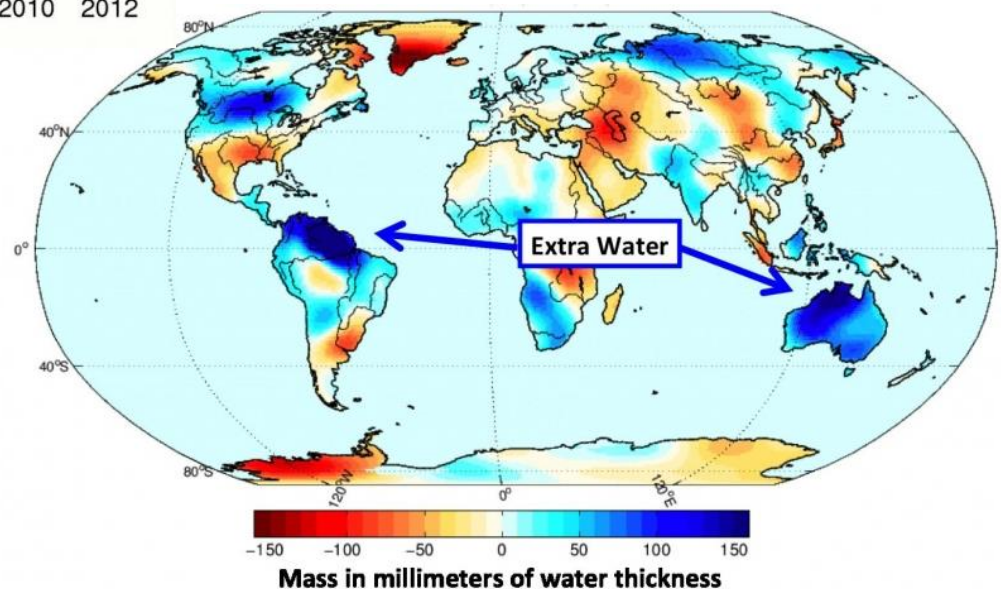
# GRACE – Uncovering the 2010-11 decline in global mean sea level and its relation to ENSO (October, 2012)



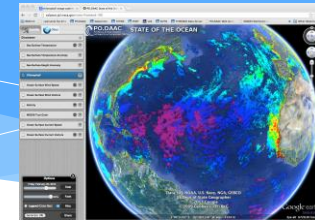
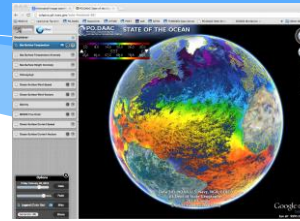
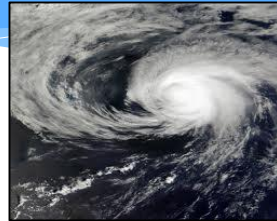
In mid 2010 to mid 2011, global mean sea level dropped by ~5 mm

GRACE observations revealed that the sudden drop in sea level was related to a temporary loss of ocean water that was redistributed by evaporation, rain, and winds to the continents.

High precipitation events occurred during the 2010-11 La Niña and brought a massive amount of water to Australia and northern South America.

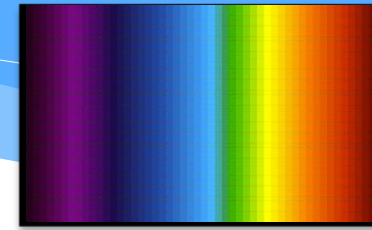
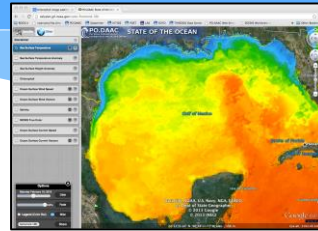


# SOTO user story #1: hurricane impact on fishery



- \* A fishery company hears a tropical storm has been upgraded to a category 1 hurricane in the North Atlantic Ocean. The company needs to understand how it will impact their shipping fleet. Also, they want to quickly assess if there is an ocean response and if so, by what magnitude (e.g., significant regional decreases in SST, areas of relatively high chlorophyll-a concentrations) so they can approximate expected fish catchments.

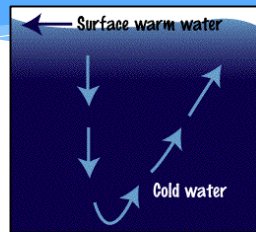
# SOTO user story #2: Gulf of Mexico research



- \* A scientist wants information on the current ocean conditions in the hypoxic zone of the Gulf of Mexico in summer. The scientist first runs a visualization to see if anything is out of the ordinary, then downloads data files for that particular time. The scientist knows temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico often exceed  $29^{\circ}\text{C}$  in summer and needs a color bar appropriate for the region.



# SOTO user story #3: connecting scientists to students



- \* An ocean algal bloom event is happening off the nearby coast. Analysis by a scientist using SOTO data sources such as chlorophyll indicates the event has been ongoing for 2 weeks and may be due to coastal upwelling. The scientist enters the algal bloom event into SOTO including a description of the analysis. A high school student using SOTO notices the algal bloom event, reads the description and submits a follow-up question which the scientist in turn replies to, generating a Q&A session.